

Law Enforcement

Our laws are enforced by police agencies at all three levels of government. Our system of law enforcement has its origins hundreds of years ago with the early efforts of English society to prevent crime, apprehend offenders, and punish the guilty.

England was once divided into *shires* or counties. The chief law enforcement officer of a shire was called a *reeve*. Thus the “shire-reeve” is recognized in the United States as a *sheriff*. Officers working in cities were referred to as *constables*. When either the sheriff or a constable needed help in catching a criminal, he could order local citizens to join in the search. The group they formed was called a *posse*.

As English towns grew, the communities depended on the *bailiffs* to keep the peace. These officers were part of a night watch. Their duties included patrolling for thieves, detecting fires, and guarding the city gates. King Edward I (1272–1307) is credited with providing the first police force. Cities were broken down into *wards* or districts. Officers assigned to these areas were obliged to patrol or keep *watch*. Hence, the term *watch and ward* was introduced as a way to describe the daily activities of early police officers.

By the early 1700s crime in London had reached new levels. Various reform efforts were made to curb the high rates of violence. It became obvious that the old watch and ward system was outdated. A new approach to crime fighting was needed. Henry Fielding, a writer and *magistrate* (judge) who worked in the Bow Street section of London, had an idea.

Fielding recruited a hand-picked group of officers. Their tasks were to prevent crime and arrest offenders through careful investigation. This disciplined group prided themselves on their rapid response to calls for help; they often dashed to the scene of a crime. Because of the unit’s location in metropolitan London and their quick reactions, they became known as the “Bow Street Runners.” Some scholars view them as the first detective force.

The person most responsible for single-handedly creating a modern police force is Sir Robert Peel. In 1829 he established the Metropolitan Police of London and introduced radical changes in how the police did their jobs. Peel’s officers were nicknamed “Bobbies” by the public in honor of their founder. Bobbies wore uniforms, patrolled the streets, showed discipline and courtesy to citizens, and enforced the laws fairly. The new police force resembled a military system with ranks of office, badges, and weapons. This military-style approach to law enforcement was later adopted in the United States.

Law enforcement has evolved dramatically since Peel’s reforms. Some of these changes are technological, including crime labs, patrol cars, radios, computers, fingerprinting techniques, and a national clearinghouse for criminal records. There are over 10,000 police agencies throughout the country that are authorized to enforce the law. The areas and laws that a police agency has authority over are called its *jurisdiction* or domain.



The first modern police force was the “Bobbies” of the Metropolitan Police of London.

Organization of Law Enforcement

| Government | Agencies | Jurisdiction |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Federal | FBI, Secret Service, IRS, and others | Federal laws and crimes; e.g., counterfeiting |
| State | Highway patrol, State Bureau of Investigation, and others | State laws and crimes |
| Local | Sheriff's Departments Municipal Police Depts. | County: State laws and crimes City: State/local laws and crimes |

Law enforcement agencies are varied. Public police agencies include:



- over 12,000 city departments.
- 50 federal law enforcement agencies.
- over 1,700 "special police" units such as public housing and university police.
- over 3,000 sheriff's departments.
- 49 state police agencies.
- close to two million persons who work in the private security industry.

There are many duties of a law enforcement officer. An officer must try to prevent crime, enforce laws, protect society, and perform social service functions like helping the elderly.

When a person is suspected of committing a crime, he or she is to be arrested by a law enforcement officer. An *arrest* is a detention of someone who must answer for specific charges relating to a crime such as burglary or auto theft. In deciding whom to arrest, a police officer must use discretion (good judgment). Whether or not to arrest a person and what type of charges to give an arrested person are examples of police discretion. An arrested citizen will be sent to court to have his or her case reviewed by a judge or jury. At that point the arresting officer has "handed over" the case and goes back to his daily duties.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was created in 1908 as a branch of the Department of Justice. It is probably the most well-known of all federal police agencies. FBI agents were once called "G-Men" or "government men." Their early duties were limited to the investigation of a few types of federal crimes. They pursued and caught famous criminals of the 1920s and 1930s such as John Dillinger and Machine Gun Kelly. Since 1908 the U.S. Congress has added up to 281 crimes to the roster of FBI investigations. Several important events mark the growth of the FBI—also known as "The Bureau."



Early targets of the FBI included members of organized crime gangs.

1908—Federal Bureau of Investigation established.

1910—New federal law (White Slave Traffic Act) expanded FBI duties.

1917—Espionage Act enables FBI to study the activities of traitors.

1924—J. Edgar Hoover selected to post of chief executive of the FBI.

Identification Division created to collect data on crimes.

1930—Uniform Crime Report placed under the FBI's authority.

1932—FBI crime laboratory started.

1935—FBI begins to offer courses and training at its National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

The FBI has many responsibilities. Among these is the *Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR)*. The FBI collects and interprets statistics on various crimes as reported to them by police departments in every state. These crimes are placed in one of two categories: Part 1 (major crimes) or Part 2 (less serious crimes).

A complete account of the crime "picture" in the United States is published yearly by the FBI. It is the only national record of its kind; society depends on the UCR report to get a general idea of crime rates, crime trends, and outcomes of cases.

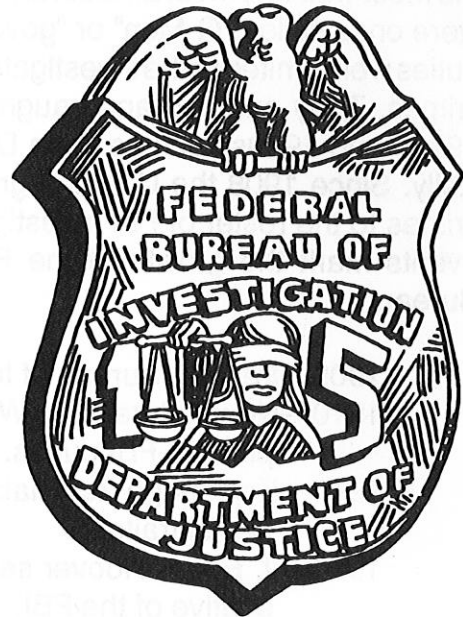
Since 1908 the Federal Bureau of Investigation has grown tremendously. Over 21,000 people are employed by the Bureau. Field offices are in every state. The FBI's budget exceeds \$1 billion annually. This makes it possible for the Bureau to conduct investigations, collect crime data, and operate a laboratory, fingerprint unit, and training academy. For these and other reasons, the FBI remains an important agency in the effort to control crime.

Employment in the FBI

Have you ever wondered what it would take to be hired as a “special agent” or crime fighter for the federal government? Here are two examples of the basic job requirements for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Border Patrol.

To join the FBI you must:

1. be between the age of 23 and 27.
2. be in excellent physical health.
3. have uncorrected vision of not less than 20/200 correctable to 20/20 in one eye, and at least 20/40 in the other eye.
4. have sound hearing.
5. be a U.S. citizen.
6. have a valid driver's license.
7. agree to a background check.
8. have a college or law degree.
9. pass an initial written exam.
10. have a formal interview.
11. agree to a urinalysis.
12. take a polygraph exam.



By the way—if you are hired as a special agent, the salary is about \$33,000 per year. You should expect to be transferred several times during the course of your career before being permanently assigned.

To join the Border Patrol you must:

1. satisfy all of the same requirements as an FBI agent would except #8 above (college or law degree).
2. have some college education.
3. have one year's employment as a supervisor (a bachelor's degree is an acceptable substitute).
4. be fluent in Spanish (reading and speaking).

By the way—a border patrol agent's salary starts off at \$18,340 per year. Your first assignment will be in a town somewhere along the Mexican border.

Name _____ Date _____

Police Cryptogram

Decipher these words that relate to law enforcement (see page 68 for master key).

1. Seen as the first official detective force (three words)

O B J F G E R R G E H A A R E F

2. The power of police to arrest or not is called

Q V F P E R G V B A

3. Another term for a judge

Z N T V F G E N G R

4. Person who created London's Bow Street Runners (two words)

U R A E L S V R Y Q V A T

5. The king who provided the first English police force (two words)

Q J N E Q V

6. Areas and laws over which a police agency has authority

W H E V F Q V P G V B A

7. A police detention of someone suspected of committing a crime

N E E R F G

8. Former nickname for FBI agents (two words)

T Z R A

9. Crime information collected yearly by the FBI (three words)

H A V S B E Z P E V Z R E R C B E G F

10. Former Chief Executive of the FBI (three words)

W R Q T N E U B B I R E

Name _____ Date _____

Police Word Scrambler

Unscramble these police words. Use the word bank at the bottom of the page.

1. AFIFBLI _____
2. BBBSOEI _____
3. ESOPS _____
4. EEEEVHRSRI _____
5. TERARS _____
6. RTEORELEBP _____
7. GFNIELDI _____
8. SDIIIOCJTNRU _____
9. TMTGRSEAAI _____
10. RNTAAWR _____
11. OVORHE _____
12. BAILI _____
13. BLASTCONES _____
14. FREFISH _____
15. RUDESPOCES _____

Word Bank

Hoover
Bobbies
jurisdiction
Fielding
warrant

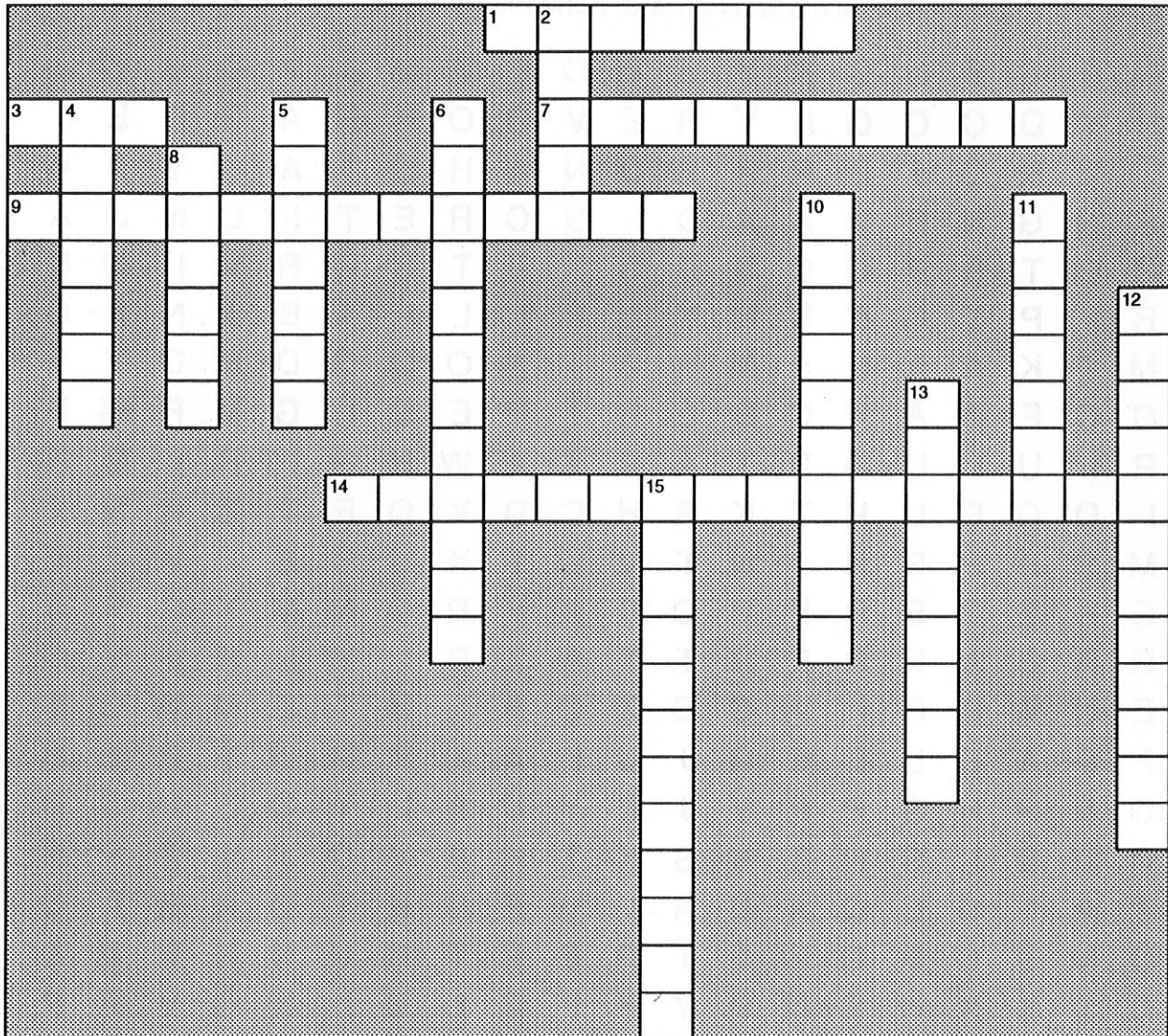
due process
magistrate
shire reeve
arrest
bailiff

alibi
posse
sheriff
Robert Peel
constables

Name _____ Date _____

Police Crossword Puzzle

Use the clues below to complete the crossword puzzle.

**ACROSS**

1. Language one must speak to be in the Border Patrol
3. J. Edgar Hoover was director of this agency.
7. Chief law officer of English counties (two words)
9. Father of modern policing (three words)
14. Fielding's officers who ran to crime scenes (three words)

DOWN

2. Citizens "rounded up" to help catch a crook
4. Officer who kept watch in early English times
5. Nickname for London police
6. Early system of law enforcement (three words)
8. When police take someone into custody
10. Early form of judge
11. The FBI is a part of the Department of _____.
12. The areas and laws that a police agency has authority over
13. _____ police departments are responsible for law enforcement in cities.
15. This act enabled the FBI to investigate traitors (two words).